

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/594,651

Examiner

William C. Vaughn, Jr.

Applicant(s)

PHILYAW, JEFFRY JOVAN

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/16/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17, 21-30. Renumbered 1-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/26/00
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/14/05
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other

William C. Vaughn, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2143
William C. Vaughn, Jr.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory M. Howison, Reg. No. 30,646 on 16 February 2005.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 18, 19, 20 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 21 and 30 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting a contest using a network, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying, on a practical screen of a user computer operably connected to the network at a user site,

a plurality of pick spaces,

a virtual television set including a first virtual screen, ~~the~~ an apparent area of the first virtual screen constituting a first display area of the practical screen showing successive images selected from a first plurality of images, a preselected one of the first plurality of images being designated a lesson image, and

a virtual computer including a second virtual screen, an apparent area of the second virtual screen constituting a second display area of the practical screen showing a rolling

Art Unit: 2143

counter depicting successive ones of a plurality of available characters, each character being displayed in the rolling counter for a preselected duration;

assigning, each time that a lesson image is shown in the first display area, a screen cursor is simultaneously positioned within the second display area, and a pointing device operably connected to the user computer and is simultaneously triggered, ~~the~~ a then-current character shown in the rolling counter to a successive one of the plurality of pick spaces, and thereafter displaying ~~the~~ an assigned character in ~~the~~ a corresponding pick space;

assembling, when each pick space displays an assigned character, an entry data packet including data indicative of the assigned character in each of the plurality of pick spaces; and

transmitting the entry data packet from the user computer across the network to a remote site;

receiving the entry data packet at the remote site; and

determining if the assigned characters in each of the plurality of pick spaces represented by the received entry data packet match a preselected winning combination of characters, and if so, concluding the received entry data packet to be a winning entry, otherwise, concluding the received entry data packet is not a winning entry;

notifying a user of the contest outcome; and

wherein the entry data packet further comprises data indicative of the user's identity, and wherein the step of notifying includes using the user identity data received in the entry data packet to send a message across the network from the remote site to the user site.

Art Unit: 2143

21. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the step of assembling the entry data packet further comprises encrypting the data, and wherein the step of receiving the entry data packet further comprises decrypting the received packet to extract the data.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting a contest using a network, comprising:

a user computer including a screen and a screen pointing device and being disposed at a user site and operably connected to the network;

a second computer disposed at a remote site and operably connected to the network;

the user computer displaying, on a practical screen,

a plurality of pick spaces,

a virtual television set including a first virtual screen, ~~the~~ an apparent area of the first virtual screen constituting a first display area of the practical screen showing successive images selected from a first plurality of images, a preselected one of the first plurality of images being designated a lesson image, and

a virtual computer including a second virtual screen, the apparent area of the second virtual screen constituting a second display area of the practical screen showing a rolling counter depicting successive ones of a plurality of available characters, each character being displayed in the rolling counter for a preselected duration;

the user computer, each time that the lesson image is shown in the first display area, a screen cursor is simultaneously positioned within the second display area, and a pointing device

Art Unit: 2143

operably connected to the user compute is simultaneously triggered, assigning the a then-current character shown in the rolling counter to a successive one of the plurality of pick spaces, and thereafter displaying the assigned character in the corresponding pick space; and

the user computer, when each pick space displays an assigned character, assembling an entry data packet including data indicative of the assigned character in each of the plurality of pick spaces, and transmitting the entry data packet from the user computer across the network to the second computer[.]; and

wherein the second computer, after receiving the entry data packet at the remote site, determines if the assigned characters in each of the plurality of pick spaces represented by the received entry data packet match a preselected winning combination of characters, and if so, concluding that the received entry data packet is a winning entry, otherwise, concluding that the received entry data packet is not a wining entry;

notifying a user of the contest outcome; and

wherein the entry data packet further comprises data indicative of the user's identity, and

wherein the step of notifying includes using the user identity data received in the entry data packet to send a message across the network from the remote site to the user site.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a method for conducting a contest using a network, the method comprising the steps of: displaying, on a practical screen of a user computer operably connected to the network at a user site, a plurality of pick spaces, a virtual television set including a first

Art Unit: 2143

virtual screen, the an apparent area of the first virtual screen constituting a first display area of the practical screen showing successive images selected from a first plurality of images, a preselected one of the first plurality of images being designated a lesson image, and a virtual computer including a second virtual screen, an apparent area of the second virtual screen constituting a second display area of the practical screen showing a rolling counter depicting successive ones of a plurality of available characters, each character being displayed in the rolling counter for a preselected duration; assigning, each time that a lesson image is shown in the first display area, a screen cursor is simultaneously positioned within the second display area, and a pointing device operably connected to the user computer and is simultaneously triggered, the a then-current character shown in the rolling counter to a successive one of the plurality of pick spaces, and thereafter displaying the an assigned character in the a corresponding pick space; assembling, when each pick space displays an assigned character, an entry data packet including data indicative of the assigned character in each of the plurality of pick spaces; and transmitting the entry data packet from the user computer across the network to a remote site; receiving the entry data packet at the remote site; and determining if the assigned characters in each of the plurality of pick spaces represented by the received entry data packet match a preselected winning combination of characters, and if so, concluding the received entry data packet to be a winning entry, otherwise, concluding the received entry data packet is not a wining entry; notifying the user of the contest outcome; and wherein the entry data packet further comprises data indicative of the user's identity, and wherein the step of notifying includes using the user identity data received in the entry data packet to send a message across the network from the remote site to the user site.

Art Unit: 2143

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

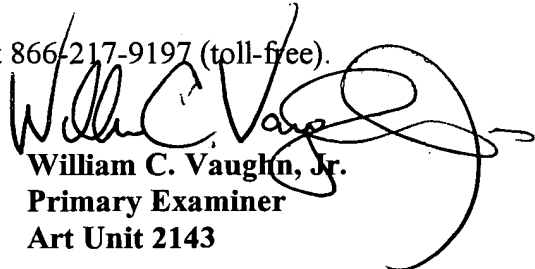
4. Claims 1-17 and 21-30 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Vaughn, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3922. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-6:00, 1st and 2nd Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William C. Vaughn, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2143

WCV